

14 January 1945

Italian Division, SI, MEDTO
Headquarters Detachment
2677th REGIMENT, (PAC)

JR-1577

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OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES

COUNTRY Italy
SUBJECT Views in Diplomatic Circles
at Vatican

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Baron Malatesti, delegate at the Vatican of the Order of the Maltese Knights, recently and in frequent contact with Vatican diplomatic circles, stated, in conversation (30 December, 1944) with an American, the following:

1. Poland

The Pope, of late, seemed to be very depressed, and is very gloomy about the post-war evolution of the Christian world. He seems to be much affected by the stand taken by the Allies on the Polish question, since he has a particular interest in the fate of Poland, as one of the foremost Catholic countries, and deplores the present policy toward Poland followed by Great Britain and the United States.

2. Hungary

With regard to the new "free" Hungarian government under General Bela Miklos, formed in Debrecen under Russian auspices, the Vatican's position is a particularly delicate one, since the Apostolic Nuncio to Hungary is still in the German-held part of that country. Although General Miklos is well thought of as the former chief of state or regent von Horthy, and as a "good Catholic", the Vatican will not officially recognize the new, Russian-sponsored Hungarian government, as long as it has not been recognized by the Allies as a fully fledged member of the Allied Nations.

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CLASSIFICATION

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The present Hungarian minister at the Holy See, Baron Apor, together with his whole staff, had already handed in his resignation at the moment of the German putsch in September, and cut himself and his staff off from the Szalassy quisling regime which resulted in the abdication and abduction by the Germans, of Regent von Horthy. Only the priest of the Legation, Father Lutter, did not participate in this resignation, and he is now nominally acting as Hungarian chargé d'affaires at the Holy See.

It is expected that in the time, the new "pro-German" Hungarian government under General Miklos will reappoint Baron Apor as its Vatican representative, just as the new Rumanian minister to the Quirinal, Grigoric, as its new minister at the Holy See.

3. Germany

Baron Weizacker, the German Ambassador to the Holy See, holds the high esteem of the Pope, because the Pope believes that Weizacker was responsible for saving Rome from the destruction of war. All rumors that Weizacker will break away from the German government should be discounted, because he is too much of a grand seigneur to desert his country in a moment of distress, even though he may disapprove of certain aspects of the Nazi regime.

The Pope does not favor Monsignor Kaas, the former leader of the German Center party (Zentrumspartei), and it is not believed that in any possible future political aspirations he will receive the support of the Vatican, since the Pope on principle disapproves of churchmen taking an active part in politics.

4. United States

Vatican circles have viewed with a certain coolness the establishment of an Office of Vatican Relations with the REAC (Rome Allied Area Command), since they feel that it would have been preferable for the sake of diplomatic procedure if the American authorities had followed the precedent set by other countries, such as Great Britain, France and Poland, appointing and attaching a liaison officer to the staff of

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the President's personal representative to the Holy See, Myron C. Taylor, to take care of relations between the Vatican and American military authorities.

Comment:

The Valletti family is close to Vatican circles. Mgr. Palumbo del Grimaldo is an uncle. Myron Valletti is standing at the Vatican as deputy. It is said through the uncle. The Valletti family is of the Italian Socialist Party. He too, is reported to have considerable standing at the Vatican through his uncle. The latter Valletti is reported stationed on about to be attached to Cardinal in London. He was a member of the Italian Armistice Commission in France, following the fall of France and subsequent occupation. Myron Valletti is Austrian-Italian, 60 years old. He is said to do. Prior to the war he spent his time between Vienna and Rome. His family is residing with him in Rome. He has extensive land holdings in Italy. Some little time prior to the conversation reported above he had had an audience with the Pope.

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